

# Idaho Youth Prevention Survey

## Region 2 Report

Latah, Clearwater, Nez Perce, Lewis, and Idaho Counties

2014

The Idaho Youth Prevention Survey assessed behaviors and attitudes about substance use and other high-risk behaviors. The survey was administered to students statewide in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12, and resulting data yielded information about student perceptions and activities.

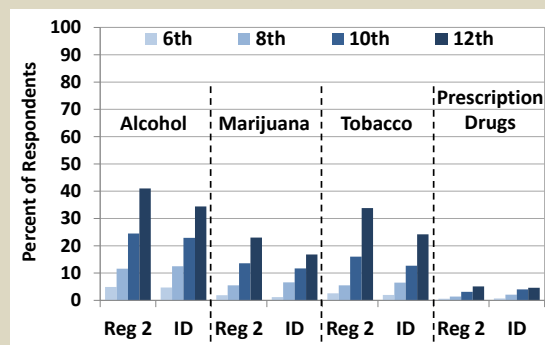
More than 12,000 students participated in the survey statewide; 1,378 attended schools in the Region 2 counties of Clearwater, Latah, Lewis, and Nez Perce, located in north central Idaho.

Grade Level	Region 2		Idaho	
	#	%	#	%
6th	317	23	3140	25
8th	367	27	3663	29
10th	373	27	3168	25
12th	321	23	2679	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>1378</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>12650</b>	<b>100</b>

Focusing on alcohol, tobacco, marijuana use, and consumption of unprescribed prescription drugs, this report addresses students' recent use and perceptions of substance use. Data pertaining to suicidal attempts and ideation is also presented.

Regional and statewide results are provided based on the grade level of the students surveyed. Nearly all at-risk behaviors examined were more common among older students (Chart 1). Similarly, attitudes towards such behaviors became more casual, with less risk or wrong-doing ascribed by older students.

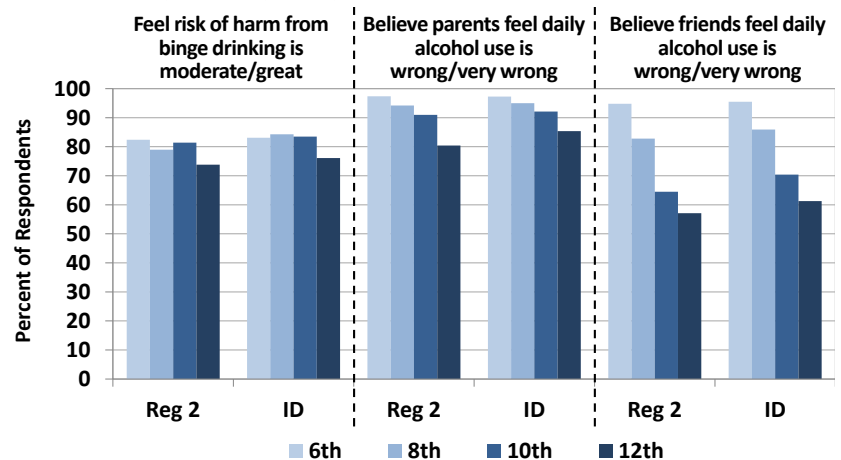
Chart 1. Substance use in prior 30 days



Previous studies indicate that, since 2008, alcohol use has decreased while tobacco and marijuana usage rates remain stable (see Idaho Department of Education Report: *Substance Use, Safety, And School Climate In Idaho, 2008*).

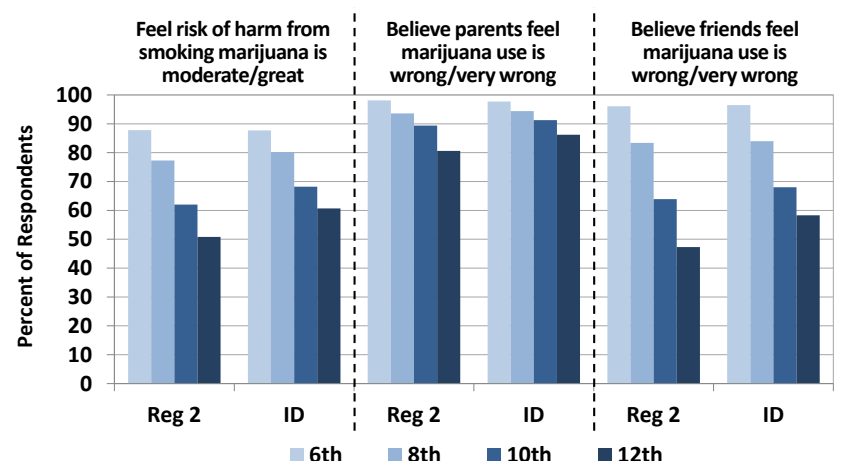
Few sixth grade students reported consuming alcohol in the month prior to taking the survey. Use increased among older students, with 40% of the Region 2 seniors reporting recent alcohol use, compared with 34% state-wide (Chart 1). Most sixth, eighth, and tenth grade students, in both Region 2 and statewide, believed that consuming five or more alcoholic drinks once or twice a week (i.e., binge drinking) involved moderate or great risk of harm; such thinking was somewhat lower among seniors. Seniors were also less likely to believe their parents feel daily alcohol use is wrong. Students of different grade levels varied widely regarding whether they believe their friends feel daily alcohol use is wrong (Chart 2).

Chart 2. Perceptions regarding alcohol use



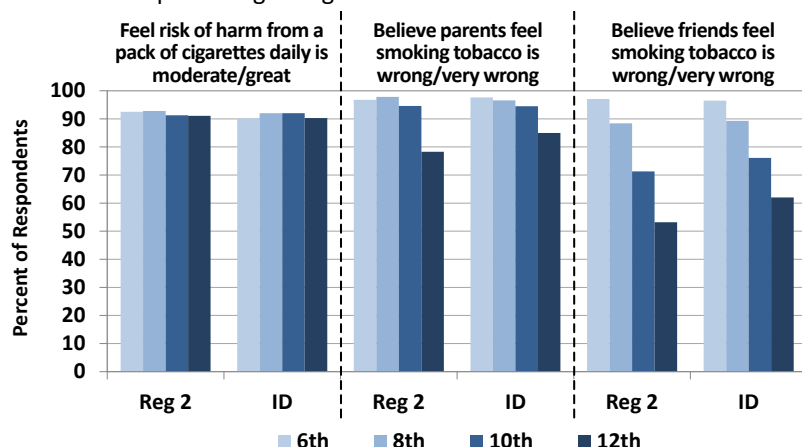
Very similar trends are evident among topics pertaining to marijuana use, though usage is considerably lower. The risk of harm associated with such use is also notably lower among older students (Chart 3).

Chart 3. Perceptions regarding marijuana use



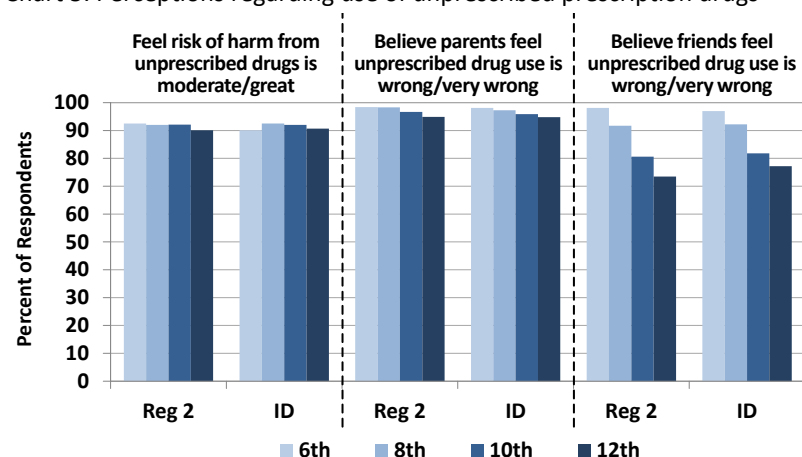
More than 30% of Region 2 twelfth grade students reported recently using tobacco, in the form of cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, or cigars, while statewide usage was lower (Chart 1). The vast majority of students believed that smoking at least a pack of cigarettes daily posed a risk of harm. Region 2 seniors were less likely to think their parents and friends felt smoking tobacco was wrong compared with seniors statewide (Chart 4); while rates among other grade levels were similar to statewide figures.

Chart 4. Perceptions regarding tobacco use



Recent use of unprescribed prescription drugs was rare among Idaho students (Chart 1). Nearly all believe such use is risky, and that their parents feel it is wrong. High school students' belief that their friends feel it is wrong was lower than that of students in middle school (Chart 5).

Chart 5. Perceptions regarding use of unprescribed prescription drugs



**The following questions can be used to start a conversation in your community about ways to prevent substance abuse.**

- How do students' substance abuse rates in our region compare to the rest of the state?
- How do these rates compare with what we are personally aware of among our students?
- What are students' perceptions of school culture and climate in our region?
- How can we better educate families about substance abuse and inform them about community resources for our students?
- What are our goals around substance abuse prevention, and how can we achieve them?

**Suicidal Ideation**

During tenth grade, when responses indicating depressive behaviors were the most common, 32% of Region 2 students indicated feeling hopeless at least some of the time during the prior 30 days, and 16% reported they had seriously considered attempting suicide, similar to statewide rates. Among Region 2 students who had been bullied in the past year, 26% indicated they had seriously considered suicide, compared with 7% among those not bullied.



**Other Region 2 Survey Findings**

- Region 2 seniors were more likely than seniors statewide to have tried downers (12% vs. 6%, respectively) or ecstasy (11% vs. 5% respectively).
- Region 2 seniors were less likely to indicate that gangs cause trouble in their schools (21%) compared with statewide responses (30%), and they were more likely to report always feeling safe at school (58% in Region 2, 52% statewide).
- Seniors in Region 2 more commonly reported being driven in the past month by someone drinking or using drugs (30%) than did students statewide (23%).
- Fewer than one third of Region 2 seniors (32%) indicated that they missed at least a class due to skipping school in the past month, compared with half (50%) of seniors statewide.
- Region 2 seniors were less likely to report that it was likely or very likely that they would attend/graduate from a university (64%), in comparison with seniors statewide (71%).

The complete 2014 Idaho Youth Prevention Survey report can be downloaded from the following website:

[www.sde.idaho.gov/site/safe\\_drugfree/](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/safe_drugfree/)

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